GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

July 8, 1970

Mr. Howard Roffman
8829 Blue Grass Road
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19152

Dear Mr. Roffman:

This is in reply to your letter of June 8, 1970.

Thank you for the information in your letter concerning the slides of Warren Commission exhibits which we furnished you. We appreciate your kind remarks concerning the work of our staff. The following is in response to the numbered questions in your letter:

(1) We have compared the fragments in Commission Exhibit 840 with the published photograph in the Hearings of the Commission, and it appears that one of the fragments is missing. We had not previously noted this, as we have not been familiar with this exhibit as with some of the better known exhibits. There are three fragments in the container shown in the exhibit, but one of them is the sliver shown in your drawing. We have made a search for the missing fragment but have not found it and must assume that it was not transferred to us with the others.

We do not know of any information in the records in our custody concerning the sliver. An examination of the published testimony concerning CE 840 reveals that each of three fragments in the exhibit weighed nine-tenths of a grain, seven-tenths of a grain, and seven-tenths of a grain respectively before small portions were removed by the FBI for spectrographic analysis and comparison with other bullets and bullet fragments (V Hearings 66-67).

(2) The only relevant information we have found for this item is the testimony that two fragments in CE 843 weighed 1.65 grains and .15 grains respectively before a very small amount was removed for spectrographic analysis (V Hearings 73). We do not know of any reference in the records in our custody to the minute dot shown in the published exhibit.

(3) We have rechecked the exhibit files but have not found the small bullet fragments shown in CE 857 and CE 859.

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As you know, the photograph of the fragments which is CE 859 includes a metric ruler and we can furnish you a print of this photograph if you do not already have one.

(4) None of the ballistics evidence has been damaged or mutilated since it came into the possession of the National Archives. As we previously informed you, a tiny fragment fell from the base of the bullet in CE 399 while the bullet was being photographed in January 1967. The fragment was apparently so insecurely attached to the bullet that it could have become dislodged at any time.

(5) None of the ballistics evidence has been mounted in a pliable substance such as clay. As you will note in one of the slides, the tiny fragment which fell from the base of the bullet in CE 399 was placed on a piece of tape at that time in order to preserve it.

(6) We do not know of any photograph of the base of CE 399 which was taken before the tiny fragment fell from it.

As you know, information concerning these exhibits as well as photographs of them are available in the records of the Commission. We can show these to you in the National Archives. We share your interest in insuring the integrity of the ballistics evidence. We have been very conscious of our responsibility for the custody of this evidence and will continue to be.

Sincerely,

Herbert E. Angel

HERBERT E. ANGEL
Acting Archivist
of the United States